Workers in Coal Mines

703. PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines in the country and number of workers engaged therein;

(b) the production of coal in the country during the last three years, alongwith the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the production during the same period and the total profit as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA) : (a) The details of coal mines in India under CIL and the total Number of workers working therein are as below :

Total Number of coal mines in Coal India Limited	**498**
Total Number of employees working in mines as on 1.1.2000	**4,64,586**

(b) The State-wise details of coal production during the last three years are given below:—

(in million tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	28.734	28.941	27.326
Assam	0.752	0.687	0.637
Bihar	77.678	81.214	76.161
Jammu & Kashmir	0.021	0.005	0.010
Madhya Pradesh	83.283	84.753	84.937
Maharashtra	24.857	26.171	25.279
Orissa	37.365	42.162	43.512
Uttar Pradesh	15.397	15.781	15.646
West Bengal	17.993	17.455	18.762
Total	**286.080**	**297.169**	**292.270**

(c) The total expenditure on coal production in Coal India Limited and its coal producing subsidiaries during last three years are given as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

1998-99	1997-98	1996-97
14713.02	14207.60	12464.94

Total profit/loss in Coal India Limited for the last three years are given as under:

(Rs. in crores)

1998-99	1997-98	1996-97
1451.79	1803.99	1137.42

Steps for Improving Production of HCL

704. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) has failed to achieve its target growth of metal concentrates for the period January to November, 1999 by four per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it was due to the liquidity crunch; and

(d) what action is being taken/has been taken to improve the production of HCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As against the target of 32449 tonnes of Metal in Concentrate (MIC) production, Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has produced 31278 tonnes of MIC during January to November, 1999 which is 96% of the set target. Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) is facing liquidity problem due to unfavourable market conditions like severe drop in the International price (LME) of copper, competition from private copper producers who have acces to cheap imported concentrate, poor ore grade in Khetri, Rakha and Surda mines etc. This has resulted in a situation where HCL is unable to provide for the essential plant inputs which has adversely affected the production of MIC.

(d) The Govt. have taken the following setps to improve the performance of the HCL:

(i) Conversion of Outstanding loan of Rs. 180.73 crores as on 31.3.1998 into Equity and Waiver of Outstanding interest of Rs. 167.43 crores;